

**REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

Claims 9 remains in the application. Claims 10-13 are new.

**Claim Rejections under 35 USC § 112, Second Paragraph:**

Claim 9 was previously deemed allowable by Examiner. The Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences recommended continued examination of the subject matter claimed herein. The Board suggested there may be conflict between the terms "in an aqueous solution" and "acidic medium" in claim 9. (*Ex parte Eckardt*, Appeal No. 2001-2585, Dec. at 10) Applicants reply that the Board's suggestion is obviated by the phrase "alkali cyanate in an aqueous solution" which appears in claim 9.

**Claim Rejections under 35 USC § 103(a):**

The Board suggested that since claim 9 specifies no amounts it may be construed as being mostly water free. Applicants reply that the Board's suggestion is obviated by the phrase "alkali cyanate in an aqueous solution" which appears in claim 9.

**Conclusion:**

Based on the foregoing amendments and remarks, favorable consideration and allowance of all of the claims now present in the application are respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner require or consider it advisable that the specification, claims and/or drawings be further amended or corrected in formal respects in order to place the case in condition for final allowance, then it is respectfully requested that such amendment or correction be carried out by Examiner's Amendment and the case passed to issue.

Alternatively, should the Examiner feel that a personal discussion might be helpful in advancing this case to allowance, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any required fees, including any extension and/or excess claim fees, any additional or other fees, or credit any overpayment, to Goodwin Procter LLP Deposit Account No. 06-0923.

Respectfully submitted for Applicants,



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Eva Tan (Reg. No. 46,406)  
GOODWIN PROCTER LLP  
103 Eisenhower Parkway  
Roseland, NJ 07068  
(973) 992-1990 Ext. 7904